

# The Carlsbad government rap

## Volunteer's notes



CityStuff

**VOLUNTEER EXPLAINS WORDS AND CONCEPTS AS THEY ARISE. SEE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SHEETS.**

### Verse 1.

Carlsbad is a Charter Law City,  
It'll all be explained in this rappin' little ditty.  
We make and enforce our rules; it's great!  
As a Charter Law City, we're the finest in the State!  
A Council and a Mayor and a Manager too,  
And soon I'm gonna tell ya 'bout the jobs they do.  
Carlsbad, yeah I'm glad; Mmh, I love learnin' in Carlsbad!

(A charter law city means that the city follows a specific charter of its own as opposed to a general law city, which can't go against any laws of the state.)

(The Council, Mayor and Manager are the three parts of Carlsbad's government depicted on the City Seal triad.)

### Verse 2.

The Council is a party of five, no more,  
And they got to get voted to the chamber floor.  
Adjudicate and legislate and budget too,  
That's your Council workin' hard for you.  
They hire us a Manager and At'-tor-ney,  
Who carry out directives for the village by the sea.  
Carlsbad, yeah I'm glad; Mmh, I love learnin' in Carlsbad!

(The Mayor and 4 Council members.

The Mayor is a Council member.)

(Adjudicate: settle disagreements

Legislate: make laws called ordinances

Budget: decide how city money is spent.)

(The City Manager and Attorney do what the City Council asks them to do.)

### Verse 3.

Every four years we gonna vote for a Mayor,  
Servin' all the people and takin' good care.  
Workin' with the Council of our fine ci-ty,  
Fillin' boards and commissions and com-mit-tees.  
Carlsbad, yeah I'm glad; Mmh, I love learnin' in Carlsbad!

(Elections are held every four years.)

(The Mayor appoints citizens to serve on the various volunteer committees.)

### Verse 4.

City Manager as the CEO,  
Twelve Departments and a lot to know.  
Police and Fire and U-til-i-ties,  
Libraries, Parks, Finance is key.  
City workers workin' hard a thousand strong,  
Full-time and part-time all year long.  
Carlsbad, yeah I'm glad; Mmh, I love learnin' in Carlsbad!

(CEO: Chief Executive Officer.)

(The Departments are service areas.

The City Manager oversees all staff and day-to-day operations.)

(Over 1,000 people work full-time or part-time for the City of Carlsbad).

### Verse 5.

Now there's one last thing that you need to know,  
And it's real important so I'll say it slow.  
What the Council say – what the Council do,  
Has got to be done in front of me and you.  
The Council's meetings are as public as can be  
If ya can't make it down, they're on TV!  
Carlsbad, yeah I'm glad; Mmh, I love learnin' in Carlsbad!

(By law, the Council cannot make decisions in private. The meetings are held in front of the public and are also broadcast on television. This is the essence of democracy.)